Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme

5206. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed "accelerated Power Development, and Reform Programme (APDRP)";

(b) the allocation made for the programme during 2002-03; and

(c) how the progress would be monitored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government of India has launched Accelerated Power development Programme (ARDP), now known as Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP), in the year 2000-2001 with the objective of providing systematic financing for (a) Renovation & Modernization and life extension of old generating stations and (b) upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network in the country for financial turn around of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs). The amount provided under the programme is released as Central Plan Assistance to State Governments. Initially 63 distribution circles all over the country have been taken up for development as Centres of Excellence with the objectives of reducing T &D (Technical as well as Commercial) losses to 10 to 15% as against existing over 50% improving quality and reliability of power supply and customer satisfaction through investment in upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network, It is proposed to take up all the circles in the country for upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network during the 10th Plan 2002—2007.

The APDRP is being used as a tool to engineer reforms in the distribution sector, which is crucial to bringing about commercial viability of the power sector, given the fact that over 75% of the T&D losses and almost entire commercial losses take place at distribution stage apart from the maximum customer interface. The objective of the distribution reforms is to bring about sustainability and financial viability in the power sector as a whole. During the year 2002-2003, a provision of Rs.3500 crores has been made for the programme. The progress of the various schemes under the programme is monitored by the monitoring' committee headed by the Minister of Power.